

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 FSE-00 ABF-01 OPR-02 A-01 CIAE-00

/017 W

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R 190002Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6588

INFO USIA WASHDC

DIA

USDA/FAS WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6276

FOR EA/EX; BANGKOK FOR FADPC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AS

SUBJECT: LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN - AUSTRALIA

REF: CANBERRA'S 2674 5/1/75 AND OM 5/1/75

1. FULL BENCH OF AUSTRALIAN CONCILIATION AND ABITRATION COMMISSION HAS INCREASED FEDERAL AWARD WAGES BY 3.5 PERCENT - THE INCREASE RECORDED IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN THE JUNE QUARTER - EFFECTIVE FROM THE FIRST FULL PAY PERIOD ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 18 - THE INCREASE WILL AUTOMATICALLY FLOW-ON TO ALL STATE AWARDS.

2. THE FULL BENCH HAS MAINTAINED THE NEXUS BETWEEN QUARTERLY MOVEMENTS IN THE CPI AND FEDERAL AWARD WAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN ITS DECISION OF APRIL 30.

3. THE APRIL 30 DECISION BECAME EFFECTIVE MID-MAY, A LAG OF 1-1/2 MONTHS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE CPI. THE DECISION YESTERDAY INCREASED THE LAG TO 2-1/2 MONTHS AFTER PUBLICATION

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OF THE RELEVANT QUARTERS'S FIGURES. THE BENCH SAID IT WOULD

HOLD A BRIEF HEARING TOWARD THE END OF OCTOBER TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN RELATION TO ANOTHER WAGE ADJUSTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOVEMENTS IN THE CPI IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER, AND ANOTHER HEARING IN JANUARY BASED ON THE CPI FOR DECEMBER. IT WOULD ALSO WITHIN THE 4TH QUARTER HOLD HEARINGS FOR WAGE INCREASES BASED ON MOVEMENTS IN PRODUCTIVITY.

4. MAJOR FEATURES OF YESTERDAY'S DECISION WERE: THE BENCH'S REFUSAL TO ALTER THE 8 APRIL 30 GUIDELINES AND ITS EXPANDED DISCUSSION OF THEM RELATING TO WORK VALUE AND "CATCH-UP" MOVEMENTS; ITS DECISION TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON ANOMALIES; ITS REFUSAL OF THE REQUEST FROM THE FEDERAL GOVT. AND THE ACTU THAT OVERWARD PAYMENTS BE INDEXED; AND THE COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY DISCUSSION OF THE FEDERAL GOVT.'S. REQUEST THAT INCREASES IN THE CPI RESULTING FROM INCREASED TAXES AND CHARGES IN THE BUDGET BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CPI AS IT APPLIES TO WAGES.

5. EMBASSY IS AIR POUCHING FULL REPORT ON THE COMMISSION'S STATEMENT AND WAGES DECISION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THIS 3.5 PERCENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 28, 1975. EMBASSY WILL CABLE BUDGETARY DATA SOONEST.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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